

Date of Hearing: January 30, 2008

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

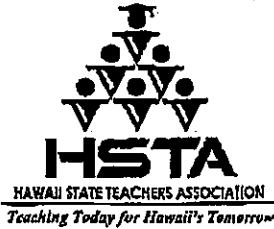
Title: S.B. 2224, Relating to Teachers

Purpose: To appropriate funds to the department of education to provide additional resources to support teacher quality.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports S.B. 2224 to provide resources for continuous teacher development. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act mandates the State Educational Agency to develop an array of services for teachers to meet the requirements of the law. Currently, the Department has an alternative route to licensure program, three teacher education programs, and a variety of professional development courses. However, due to the impact of NCLB, the Department continues to seek ways to expand content and pedagogy courses in the areas of math, science, and English. Resources are needed to expand programs through on-line learning to service teachers in remote areas.

The Department feels that under the mandate of NCLB, there is a great need and immediacy for services to meet the requirements of the law. Therefore, expanding the contract to include private vendors and private institutes of higher education would greatly benefit the teachers.

The Department supports this bill only if the funds are above and beyond the Board of Education's budget priorities.



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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION**

**RE: SB 2224 – RELATING TO TEACHERS**

January 30, 2008

**ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports SB 2224, which gives teachers the financial means to expand the breadth and depth of their professional development.

Teachers are encouraged to broaden the scope of professional development in order to improve their pedagogy skills and keep the learning experience fresh and engaging for their students. They do this by taking college courses, training workshops, or professional development classes, most of which come with a price tag, and often a hefty one, which they must pay out of their own pocket the majority of the time.

In the case of those courses, workshops or training required by the Department of Education, we believe the DOE should be offering such professional development courses at no expense to the teachers. It is the employer's obligation to pay for professional development when courses are mandated by the employer.

We urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.